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COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS ACTING AS
PREPARATORY BODY FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO THE
FIGHT AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION,
SALE, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION
OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC
SUBSTANCES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES
Second session
Vienna, 16-20 March 1998
Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda*

PREPARATIONS FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CONSIDER THE FIGHT AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION, SALE, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES AND TO PROPOSE NEW STRATEGIES, METHODS, PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES AND SPECIFIC MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM OF DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING

CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTS OF THE INFORMAL INTER-SESSIONAL MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION ACTING AS PREPARATORY BODY FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL

Action plan against manufacture, trafficking and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors

Addendum

*E/CN.7/1998/PC/1.

V.98-50909 (E)

Comments and proposed amendments received from Governments

1. The first informal open-ended inter-sessional meeting of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which was held from 7 to 9 July 1997, examined the topics of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors. The consensus reached at that meeting was reflected in two working papers, which were transmitted to all Governments under cover of a note verbale dated 19 August 1997. Governments were invited to make comments on elements not already included in the two working papers and to address those comments to the Secretariat before 25 September 1997.

2. The working paper on amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors (E/CN.7/1998/PC/2) will be before the Commission acting as preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly to be held in June 1998.

3. Comments received from Governments in response to the note verbale mentioned above are contained in the present document.

General comments

4. *Germany* and the *United States of America* have commented that the working paper, and others prepared during the preparatory process, will need to be redrafted into a common format.

Paragraph 1

5. *Sweden* has suggested that the words "in many countries" should be added to the first sentence. If amended, paragraph 1 would read:

> "The problem of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS), though relatively new in many countries, is growing quickly and is unlikely to go away on its own. It is rapidly changing in scope and geographical spread. Yet global awareness of it is limited and responses to it are heterogeneous and inconsistent."

Proposed new paragraph to be inserted after paragraph 5

6. *Japan*, wishing to draw attention to the roles of the private sector and non-governmental organizations, has suggested an additional paragraph to be inserted after paragraph 5, to read as follows:

> "In addition to efforts by States, mobilization of the private sector and non-governmental organizations should be sought in achieving awareness of the ATS problem."

Paragraph 7

7. In line with the amendment to paragraph 1, *Sweden* has suggested that paragraph 7 should be amended to read:

> "In many countries ATS abuse is increasingly concentrated among younger segments of the population, among whom the substances are widely believed to be safe and benign. Such abuse of ATS is threatening to become a part of mainstream consumer culture."

Proposed new paragraph to be inserted after paragraph 9

8. *Japan*, drawing attention to the need for a balanced approach, has suggested an additional paragraph to be inserted after paragraph 9, to read as follows:

> "States should strengthen enforcement against illicit trafficking in and abuse of ATS."

Paragraphs 11 and 12

9. Based upon the difference between illegal information and information that is offensive, the idea that the Internet should not be monitored to determine violations of the law because neither the postal service nor the telephone network is routinely monitored for this purpose, and that users of the Internet should be enabled to protect themselves from potentially offensive material, the *United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland* has suggested that paragraphs 11 and 12 should be re-drafted to read:

> "11. Consultations should be initiated at the national, regional and international levels, as appropriate, with representatives of the telecommunication and software industries to promote and encourage the development of frameworks based on existing law to bring about the removal of illegal drug-related information. These could be based on industry-managed open complaint mechanisms such as reporting hotlines, which allow Internet users to report instances of illegal drug-related material. Responsibility for enforcement action should, of course, remain with the police. States should also encourage the development and use of rating and filtering software, which enables users to protect themselves from material that, while not illegal, may contain offensive or undesirable information.
>
> "12. States should ensure that their existing legal frameworks regarding illegal drugs and drug-related information apply to the Internet as they do off-line."

Paragraph 16

10. *Sweden* has suggested that seizing illicit laboratories should be noted as a supply control measure against ATS. *Germany* has suggested that the supply of ATS from licit sources should be emphasized. Since the issue raised by *Sweden* is already covered in the first sentence of paragraph 16, the Secretariat proposes that the last sentence should be replaced with the following text:

> "Information furnished by Governments to the International Narcotics Control Board shows diversion of ATS from legal international trade into illicit channels and high legal consumption of ATS in some countries, indicating possible diversion from domestic distribution and/or over-prescription or irrational prescription practices."

Subparagraph 17 (d)

11. *Germany* has suggested that subparagraph 17 (d) should be made clearer in terms of establishing the act in question as a criminal offence. The Secretariat proposes that the words "of the possibility" should be deleted from subparagraph 17 (d), which would then read:

> "(d) consideration of punishing, as a criminal offence in the sense of article 3 of the 1988 Convention, the diversion of non-scheduled chemical substances with the knowledge that they are intended for use in the illicit manufacture of ATS".

Paragraph 18

12. In order to incorporate suggestions from *Sweden* on subparagraph 18 (b) and *Portugal* for a new subparagraph 18 (c), the Secretariat proposes that paragraph 18 should be redrafted to read:

> "In order to target the clandestine manufacture of ATS, international, regional and national authorities should also: (a) monitor clandestine manufacturing methods; (b) develop drug signature analysis and profiling; (c) monitor sales of laboratory equipment, in compliance with article 13 of the 1988 Convention; (d) train all enforcement and control personnel involved in the technical complexities of ATS; and (e) investigate the possibility of developing procedures for differentiating between groups of substances with closely related chemical structures and for the detection of individual substances within ATS, for use by enforcement authorities."

Proposed new paragraphs to be inserted after paragraph 18

13. *Japan* has suggested an additional paragraph to be inserted after paragraph 18, to read as follows:

> "States should strengthen their enforcement efforts against the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in ATS."

14. In order to incorporate a suggestion from *Germany*, the Secretariat proposes the addition of another paragraph following paragraph 18, to read as follows:

> "On the basis of the 1971 Convention and related Economic and Social Council resolutions, competent authorities should monitor closely developments in the licit manufacture of, trade in and distribution of ATS in order to detect and prevent: (a) diversion into illicit channels from manufacture and into international and retail trade (pharmacies); and (b) irrational marketing and prescribing of such substances, and should cooperate closely with the International Narcotics Control Board by exchanging all relevant information in accordance with the 1971 Convention and related Council resolutions."

Paragraph 19

15. *Spain* has suggested that the word "cumbersome" in the first sentence of paragraph 19 should be replaced with the word "complicated". Paragraph 19 would then read:

> "When applied to clandestinely manufactured ATS, the international drug control system reveals several shortcomings, *inter alia*: the complicated procedure for scheduling psychotropic substances, the relative novelty of the precursor control regime and the different procedures for changing the scope of control in the international drug control conventions. Effectively counteracting or preventing emergency situations, which may differ from region to region, requires a control system that is fast, flexible, easy to adapt to new situations and both technically and conceptually commensurate with the ever-greater complexity of the evolving ATS problem."

Subparagraph 20 (a)

16. *Spain* has also suggested that the word "particularly" should be deleted from paragraph 20 (a) and the word "consideration" should be replaced with the word "application". Subparagraph 20 (a) would then read:

> "(a) Improve the technical basis of control with regard to increasing the flexibility of the process of scheduling. This would involve application of one of the following models used in different countries:

(i) emergency or simplified scheduling processes; (ii) scheduling based on structurally similar groups (analogues); and (iii) control for purposes of criminal prosecution, based on similarities in chemical structure and known or anticipated pharmacological effects".

Subparagraph 20 (b)

17. *Japan* has suggested that the words "which should be close to those applied to the major narcotic drugs" should be added at the end of subparagraph 20 (b), in order to make it consistent with the original recommendation of the expert meeting held at Shanghai.

Subparagraph 20 (c)

18. *The Netherlands*, observing that the present version of paragraph 20 (c) exceeded current treaty obligations and was not in conformity with their national legislation, suggested that the subparagraph should be amended to read:

"Introduce, in compliance with article 22 of the 1971 Convention and article 3 of the 1988 Convention, appropriate sanctions and penalties for the illicit manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of ATS, including civil fines and administrative penalties, and introduce appropriate penalties or alternative measures against the abuse of ATS, consistent with national laws and policies."

Subparagraph 20 (d)

19. *Sweden* has suggested that subparagraph 20 (d) should become subparagraph 20 (a), since the identification and assessment of new ATS should precede the scheduling process.

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PREPARATIONS FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CONSIDER THE FIGHT AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION, SALE, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES AND TO PROPOSE NEW STRATEGIES, METHODS, PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES AND SPECIFIC MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM OF DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING

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Action plan against manufacture, trafficking and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors

Addendum

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*E/CN.7/1998/PC/1.

V.98-51412 (E)

Comments and proposed amendments received from Governments

1. The first informal open-ended inter-sessional meeting of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which was held from 7 to 9 July 1997, examined the topics of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors. The consensus reached at that meeting was reflected in two working papers, which were transmitted to all Governments under cover of a note verbale dated 19 August 1997. Governments were invited to make comments on elements not already included in the two working papers and to address those comments to the Secretariat before 25 September 1997.

2. The working paper on amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors (E/CN.7/1998/PC/2) will be before the Commission acting as preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly to be held in June 1998.

3. Comments received from Governments in response to the note verbale mentioned above are contained in the present document and in document E/CN.7/1998/PC/2/Add. 1.

Section I

4. Mexico has suggested that section I of the working paper (E/CN.7/1998/PC/2) should reflect more clearly the commitment of the international community to raising awareness of the problem of ATS, and the commitment of States to combating that problem. In order to do that, amendments to paragraphs 2, 4 and 5 have been suggested.

Paragraph 2

5. Two sentences should be added to the beginning of paragraph 2, which, if amended, would read as follows:

> "2. The international community should give higher priority to combating the problem of ATS in all its aspects. The competent entities of the United Nations system should give appropriate consideration to this problem. The subject of ATS should become a regular item on the agenda of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and other international bodies related to drug control."

Paragraph 4

6. The word "continue" should be replaced by the word "strengthen" in paragraph 4, which would thus read as follows:

> "4. International bodies such as the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), the International Narcotics Control Board and the World Health Organization (WHO) should strengthen their work on technical, scientific dimensions of the ATS problem and disseminate the results in regular publications for States and the general public."

Paragraph 5

7. Since Mexico has noted that the reference to the "global framework" in paragraph 5 is unclear, the Secretariat proposes the addition of the words "noted in paragraph 3 above", so that the paragraph would read as follows:

> "5. States should give the issue the priority and attention it deserves and implement the global framework noted in paragraph 3 above."

Section II

8. Mexico has noted that section II, on reducing demand, is too weak in relation to the rest of the text in the document and that a balance does not exist between the action indicated in the sections on limiting supply and strengthening the control system, which is described in greater detail, and the action indicated in section II. Particularly noticeable is the absence of specific measures for the prevention of amphetamine abuse.

Paragraph 9

9. Mexico has suggested that the action described in paragraph 9, whereby States are requested to use the information collated by international bodies for targeted prevention and treatment efforts as well as public awareness campaigns, should be strengthened.

10. In this connection, Mexico has suggested that it would be useful to incorporate into the text a request that States include information on the harmful effects of ATS abuse in their educational programmes. In addition, references to the importance of the promotion by States of awareness campaigns, particularly among children and youth, and to the importance of the participation of non-governmental organizations in preventive efforts should be included.

Section III

11. Mexico has noted that section III, which deals with the provision of accurate information on ATS, focuses on the control of information via the Internet. Although it regards such action as appropriate, Mexico suggests that it is also desirable to include measures relating to the role of traditional media and to the control of information on ATS provided by such media, in order to ensure that the risks of ATS abuse are more widely publicized.

12. With regard to the suggestion by Mexico that a section on "traditional media" be added to section III, the Secretariat would like to note that the subject is referred to in the report of the Expert Meeting on Amphetamine-type Stimulants, held at Shanghai, China, from 25 to 29 November 1996 (E/CN.7/1997/6, paras. 27-28).

Paragraph 17

13. Noting that in section IV the voluntary cooperation of the chemical industry is described as crucial to monitoring and preventing the diversion of ATS precursors but that no measures to do that are provided for in that section, Mexico has suggested adding a paragraph or subparagraph on the subject. The Secretariat proposes that it be included as subparagraph 17 (a), which would then read as follows:

> "(a) The promotion of close cooperation with industry to establish measures and/or a code of conduct governing trade in ATS precursors; ..."

14. If that amendment is accepted, the present subparagraphs 17 (a)-(c) would subsequently be re-numbered.

15. Mexico has also suggested that if there is agreement on the principle of sanctions against enterprises that do not agree to cooperate, the references to the voluntary nature of cooperation in paragraphs 16 and 17 could be replaced, *mutatis mutandis*.

Paragraph 20

16. Mexico has suggested that subparagraph 20 (b) should be re-phrased so that the words "Consider mandatory application of" would be replaced with the word "Implement"; thus, the subparagraph would read as follows:

> "(b) Implement the relevant Council resolutions, as well as the recommendations of the Board, aimed at strengthening the control of psychotropic substances under the 1971 Convention;"

17. Mexico has noted that subparagraph 20 (f) contains the only reference to technical and financial support for States that do not have sufficient capacity to implement the measures set out in the text. Mexico believes that the most suitable way to deal with the subject of resources would be to make a general reference to the commitment of States and the international community as a whole to the granting of the resources necessary to implement the measures contained in the political declaration; however, because of the complexity and rapid development of the amphetamine problem, a more strongly worded reference to the technical support required by developing countries should be included in the action plan. The support should not be limited to the regional level.

18. In order to provide technical support to developing countries for pursuing action suggested in the text, Mexico has suggested that in subparagraph 20 (f) the words "and assistance to States with limited expertise in dealing with the complex technical problems posed by ATS" should be deleted and that a new subparagraph, subparagraph (g), should be added; that subparagraph would read as follows:

> "(g) Provide, at the request of States with limited expertise in dealing with the complex technical problems posed by ATS, the necessary assistance to implement effective measures against the manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of ATS."

19. In order to implement the "know-your-client" principle, Mexico has suggested that a new sub-paragraph be added to paragraph 20. The new subparagraph, subparagraph (h), would read as follows:

> "(h) Improve the exchange of information between States on transactions involving ATS in order to strengthen the control system for such substances and their precursors and apply the 'know-your-client' principle;"

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PREPARATIONS FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CONSIDER THE FIGHT AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION, SALE, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES AND TO PROPOSE NEW STRATEGIES, METHODS, PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES AND SPECIFIC MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM OF DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING

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Action plan against illicit manufacture, trafficking and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors

*The agenda for the session is contained in document E/CN.7/1998/PC/1.

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I. RAISING AWARENESS OF THE PROBLEM OF AMPHETAMINE-TYPE STIMULANTS

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Problem

3 1. The problem of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS), though relatively new in many countries, is growing quickly and is unlikely to go away on its own. It is rapidly changing in scope and geographical spread. Yet global awareness of it is limited and responses to it are heterogeneous and inconsistent.

Action

4 2. The international community should give higher priority to combating the problem of ATS in all its aspects. The competent entities of the United Nations system should give appropriate consideration to that problem. The subject of ATS should be given higher priority and become a regular item on the agenda of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

6 3. International and regional bodies should continue advocating implementation of the extensive framework of international treaties, as well as resolutions or decisions addressing various aspects of the ATS problem adopted by the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the International Narcotics Control Board.

4. International bodies such as the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), the International Narcotics Control Board and the World Health Organization (WHO) should strengthen their work on technical scientific dimensions of the ATS problem and disseminate the results in regular publications for States and the general public.

5. States should give the issue the priority and attention it deserves and implement the global framework noted in paragraph 3 above.

6. In addition to efforts by States, mobilization of the private sector and non-governmental organizations should be sought in achieving awareness of the ATS problem.

7. States should disseminate information on actions taken in fulfilment of the present Action Plan and report them to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which, in turn, should review and appraise implementation of the Action Plan at the national, regional and international levels.

II. REDUCING DEMAND FOR ILLICIT AMPHETAMINE-TYPE STIMULANTS

Problem

8. In many countries, ATS abuse is increasingly concentrated among younger segments of the population, among whom the substances are widely and erroneously believed to be safe and benign. Such abuse of ATS is threatening to become a part of mainstream consumer culture.

Action

9. International bodies such as UNDCP and WHO should, on a regular basis: (a) collate current information on the health effects of ATS and their by-products; (b) study the social, economic and cultural driving forces of demand for ATS; (c) identify, document and disseminate good practices in the prevention and treatment of ATS abuse, as well as the prescription of licit ATS; and (d) coordinate work with non-governmental organizations in these areas.

10. States should: (a) continuously monitor changing ATS abuse patterns; (b) investigate social, economic, health and cultural dimensions of ATS abuse; (c) give priority to research, where capacity is available, on the long-term health effects of ATS abuse; (d) use and disseminate the results of these activities, including the information collated by the international bodies, for targeted prevention and treatment efforts as well as, where appropriate, public awareness campaigns; and (e) include, in their education campaigns, information on the harmful effects of ATS abuse.

III. PROVIDING ACCURATE INFORMATION ON AMPHETAMINE-TYPE STIMULANTS

Problem

11. Traditionally limited to the ambit of underground literature, information on illicit ATS has now become accessible to a large population through modern technology. Recipes for clandestine ATS manufacture, techniques of ATS abuse, images of ATS as harmless drugs and methods of evading existing controls are all widely available. This malign influence should be countered by a positive use of information technology such as the Internet for educational and training purposes.

Action

12. Consultations should be initiated at the national, regional and international levels, as appropriate, with representatives of the traditional media, and the telecommunication and software industries to promote and encourage self-restraint and to develop frameworks, based on existing law, for the removal of illegal drug-related information. Frameworks could be developed from industry-managed open complaint mechanisms such as reporting hotlines, which allow Internet users to report instances of illegal drug-related material found on the Internet. Responsibility for enforcement action should remain with the appropriate enforcement authorities. States should also encourage the development and use of rating and filtering software, which enables users to protect themselves from material that, while not illegal, may contain offensive or undesirable information.

13. States should ensure that their legal frameworks regarding illegal drugs and drug-related information apply as appropriate to the Internet as they do off-line.

14. International bodies such as UNDCP, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), WHO, the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) and the Customs Co-operation Council (also called the World Customs Organization), as well as appropriate regional and national organizations, should participate in a worldwide clearing-house system (i.e. the electronic linking, through the Internet, of national, regional and international documentation centres on substance abuse) to disseminate accurate and timely information on various aspects of the ATS problem, as well as use the Internet for distance learning purposes, with particular emphasis on assistance to developing countries.

15. States should: (a) use modern information technology to disseminate information on adverse health, social and economic consequences of ATS abuse; and (b) encourage methodological development, standardized terminology and coordinated data collection on ATS through, *inter alia,* participation in the international clearing-house system.

16. States should also take appropriate action to fully implement the provisions of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, article 10 (on prohibiting the advertisement of controlled substances to the general public),[1] and of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, article 3 (on publicly inciting illicit activities related to drugs).[2]

IV. LIMITING THE SUPPLY OF AMPHETAMINE-TYPE STIMULANTS

Problem

17. For ATS, the principal supply control strategies are to target trafficking, stop illicit manufacture and prevent diversion of laboratory equipment and the chemical starting materials (i.e. the precursors). The latter is particularly important because it is the precursors rather than the ATS end-products which are trafficked interregionally. The precursors, however, have a wide range of licit industrial uses and form a part of licit international trade. Effective monitoring can only be successful with the close cooperation of industry . Such cooperation also plays a crucial role in preventing diversions of ATS from licit sources. Information furnished by Governments to the International Narcotics Control Board shows diversion of ATS from legal international trade into illicit channels and high legal consumption of ATS in some countries.

Action

18. On the basis of the existing framework for precursor control provided by article 12 of the 1988 Convention, related Economic and Social Council resolutions and recommendations of the International Narcotics Control Board, the competent authorities at the international, regional and national levels should take the following actions specific to precursors for ATS: (a) The promotion of close cooperation with industry to establish measures and/or a code of conduct governing trade in ATS precursors; (b) enhanced implementation of the control measures against the diversion of ATS precursors listed under the 1988 Convention, including greater use of pre-export notifications and improved procedures for information exchange at the national and international levels; (c) improved monitoring of non-scheduled substances that have been identified as frequently used in illicit ATS manufacture, including voluntary cooperation between authorities and the relevant branches of industry in order to help identify suspicious transactions; (d) the establishment of an international special surveillance list of substances referred to in subparagraph (b) above as part of a general early warning system; (e) consideration of punishing, as a criminal offence in the sense of article 3 of the 1988 Convention, the diversion of non-scheduled chemical substances with the knowledge that they are intended for use in the illicit manufacture of ATS; and (f) exchanges of information between all the agencies concerned, including in investigations concerning such non-scheduled substances to detect and prevent illicit trafficking.

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[1]United Nations, *Treaty Series,* vol. 1019, No. 14956.

[2]*Official Records of the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Vienna, 25 November-20 December 1988,* vol. I (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XI.5).

19. In order to target the clandestine manufacture of ATS, international, regional and national authorities should also: (a) monitor clandestine manufacturing methods; (b) develop drug signature analysis and profiling; (c) monitor, to the extent possible, sales of laboratory equipment, in compliance with article 13 of the 1988 Convention; (d) train all enforcement and control personnel involved in the technical complexities of ATS; and (e) investigate the possibility of developing procedures for differentiating between groups of substances with closely related chemical structures and for the detection of individual substances within ATS, for use by enforcement authorities.

20. States should strengthen their enforcement efforts against the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in ATS.

21. On the basis of the 1971 Convention and related Economic and Social Council resolutions, competent authorities, in cooperation with industry, should closely monitor developments in the licit manufacture of, trade in and distribution of ATS in order to detect and prevent: (a) diversion into illicit channels from manufacture and international and retail trade (pharmacies); and (b) irresponsible marketing and prescribing of such substances. They should also cooperate closely with the International Narcotics Control Board by exchanging all relevant information in accordance with the 1971 Convention and related Council resolutions.

V. STRENGTHENING THE CONTROL SYSTEM FOR AMPHETAMINE-TYPE STIMULANTS AND THEIR PRECURSORS

Problem

22. When applied to clandestinely manufactured ATS, the international drug control system reveals several shortcomings, *inter alia*: the complicated procedure for scheduling psychotropic substances; the relative novelty of the precursor control regime; and the different procedures for changing the scope of control in the international drug control conventions. Effectively counteracting or preventing emergency situations, which may differ from region to region, requires a control system that is fast, flexible, easy to adapt to new situations and both technically and conceptually commensurate with the ever-greater complexity of the evolving ATS problem.

Action

23. Concerning the wide area of regulatory control, international and regional organizations as well as States should, as appropriate:

(a) Rapidly identify and assess new ATS found on illicit markets; States may then wish to use such assessments to determine whether they should bring such substances under control so that legal action can be taken against illicit manufacture and trafficking;

(b) Improve the technical basis of control, particularly with regard to increasing the flexibility of the process of scheduling. This would involve application of one of the following models used in different countries: (i) emergency or simplified scheduling processes; (ii) scheduling based on structurally similar groups (analogues), and (iii) control for purposes of criminal prosecution, based on similarities in chemical structure and known or anticipated pharmacological effects;

(c) Implement the relevant Council resolutions and consider the recommendations of the Board aimed at strengthening the control of psychotropic substances under the 1971 Convention, which should be similar to those applied to narcotic drugs;

(d) Introduce appropriate sanctions and penalties for illicit manufacture of and trafficking in ATS in compliance with article 22 of the 1971 Convention and article 3 of the 1988 Convention, strengthen law enforcement efforts against ATS offences, and consider appropriate penalties and alternative measures against the abuse of ATS, consistent with national laws and policies;

(e) Improve data collection and exchange of information on issues such as size of clandestine laboratories detected, manufacturing methods, precursors used, purities, prices, sources of ATS and their precursors, and epidemiological information;

(f) Strengthen regional cooperation, *inter alia*, through the following: multilateral exchanges between States of information about the adoption of amendments of national laws relating to the control of ATS; regional arrangements for monitoring new developments in the clandestine manufacture of and trafficking in ATS; and establishment of rapid channels of communication;

(g) Provide, at the request of States with limited expertise in dealing with the complex technical problems posed by ATS, the information and assistance needed to implement effective measures against the manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of ATS;

(h) Improve the exchange of information between States on transactions involving ATS in order to strengthen the control system for such substances and their precursors and to apply the 'know-your-client' principle.